



Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday September 16, 2020

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-chairs Grossman and Bauer, Commissioners Minton, Rogers, Haynes, Pusey, Soneja, Brown, Jolin, Horowitz

Jillian Harvey- DEI Coordinator

Interns Tessa Erbe, Annika Benn

Community Members: Katie Sonin, Len Diggins, Michaiah Healy, Rebecca Gruber, Anne Orens, Eileen Kell, Ceilidh Yurenka, Christopher Ellinger, Susan Ann Kehler

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:00pm by Co-chair Grossman

1. Co-chair Report
 - a. Acknowledged all for the recent statements and attending the emergency meeting
 - b. Looking for commissioners to be co-chairs in January 2021

- c. Links from Town documents to the Arlington List removed as per the Town Manager, as a follow up from the social media statement
 - d. One opening remains on the Commission
 - e. Commissioner Horowitz introduced the 2 new interns and spoke about how they plan to be involved
- 2. Review of Minutes
 - a. August- two amendments were suggested for the Aug minutes was made by Commissioner Soneja, seconded by Commissioner Horowitz, approved unanimously
 - b. September emergency meeting- A motion to accept the minutes made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Baron, approved unanimously
- 3. Review of Community Input
 - a. 29 people wrote to the Commission, most were replied to
 - b. Last month one speaker expressed appreciation for the work of the AHRC
- 4. Budget discussion
 - a. Order placed for signs, discussions regarding receiving online donations are under consideration and Jill Harvey is looking into the possibility of setting these up.
 - b. Discussions were also held regarding sign distribution. Commissioner Carney will set up a sign-up sheet for others to help with sign distribution
- 5. Rules & Regulations
 - a. Commissioner Rogers is working on updating bylaws & rules/regulations
 - b. Upcoming retreat to discuss which powers should be added and which deleted
 - c. A list of powers was reviewed. These can be divided into those from the bylaws (which requires a Town Meeting approval for amendment) and those rules & regulations (can be amended by the Commission)
- 6. Indigenous People's Day
 - a. Work has begun on drafting a warrant article & proclamation, working with United American Indians of New England (UAINE)
 - b. Warrant article to amend the bylaws needs to be submitted prior to Sep 29 for the Fall Town Meeting
 - c. Plan to present the proclamation to Select Board for approval
 - d. Motion to enable the ad hoc Working Group to move the warrant article & proclamation forward to the Select Board if they consider the timing appropriate was proposed by Commissioner Pusey, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Approved by 11 Commissioners in attendance with Commissioner Haynes abstaining
- 7. Review of Working Groups

- a. Outreach
 - i. Goal to proactively build relationships with groups/communities within the Town and in neighboring towns
 - ii. Volunteer community members involved with outreach, trying to establish affinity with groups such as DTG. Working on how their efforts can be complemented with the work of the AHRC
- b. Communication. Goals:
 - i. Managing and developing online resources – website, events, statements, Yard sign ordering tool, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube
 - ii. Working on a Newsletter template
 - iii. Support the efforts of the entire commission, especially Events & Outreach
- c. Schools and Education
 - i. Working with APS to propose educational forums to advocate for change
 - ii. Supervise interns
 - iii. Assigned liaisons to work with elementary & secondary schools
 - iv. Receive reports from Principal advisory council
 - v. Work proactively for Antiracist faculty education
- d. Events
 - i. Goals - Execution arm of the Outreach WG
 - ii. Upcoming events Sep 28 – difficult conversation webinar with Dr. Jackson; it was noted that since this is Yom Kippur, an alternate date should be found. Oct 8- Indigenous people and use of Native imagery
 - iii. Planned events on Housing & Black History month
- e. Bylaws
 - i. Commissioner Rogers provided a description of effort to establish structure that reflects what we do and/or want to do
- f. Two ad hoc groups formed for discussions around Black Lives Matter & Indigenous People's Day

8. True Story presentation & discussion

- a. Christopher Ellinger noted the endorsement letter written by the AHRC in support of True Story to apply for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts
- b. Requests that the AHRC partner for a Cultural Council grant, support work of the AHRC from Jan-June. Will request 2 commissioners to work through details
- c. Requests funding for community conversations/structural racism within the

Town program

- d. A motion to partner for the cultural council grant and fund \$200 was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Commissioner Pusey, unanimously approved

9. Community Conversations

- a. Conversation hosted by Michael Curry, formerly of the NAACP with Lt. Pedrini
- b. Jill Harvey & Allentza Michel worked on identifying representatives for the conversation
- c. Direct questions from the community will be addressed and in presence of a reaction panel
- d. Commissioner Grossman proposed to support this event, Commissioner Baron seconded. Approved by 10 commissioners, Commissioner Brown abstained, and Commissioner Soneja voted against

10. Community Input

- a. The following issues were raised by community members:
 - i. Requests that the AHRC consider making a statement regarding Black Lives Matter sign's removal from Town Hall since it should remain
 - ii. Appreciation of AHRC statements, supports continued actions and replacement of signs
 - iii. Discussion of upcoming community conversation and desire for a disciplinary policy, Civilian Review Board and community engagement officer within the Arlington Police Department. Hope for the outcome of the conversation to be policy work

11. Incidents

- a. Reminder to alert the co-chairs with updates on incidents
- b. Specific incident updates discussed

12. Housing Issues

- a. A statement needed about the Suffolk study, and recommend follow-up action items. Also need a WG to get this into motion. An upcoming forum on Housing is being planned

13. Announcements: None

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Minton, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved.

Next meeting: Oct 21, 2020, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.